

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph number [0037] with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0037] The bit stream generated by means of the method is transmitted to the recipient and can be read out in accordance with a query which was explained by way of example in relation to Figure 2. By means of comparisons between the XPATH to be queried and the entries in the index ~~nodes~~node's specific node information is read out from the stream until the corresponding searched-for XPATH containing the searched-for value instance has been found or until no matching XPATH path is possible any longer on account of the sorting. In the latter case the desired information is not contained in the indexed document. --